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JOHN WALLACE BAIRD

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL has suffered a heavy loss, and his colleagues an irreparable one, in the untimely death of Dr. John Wallace Baird which occurred on February 2nd, 1919, at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

He was born May 21st, 1869, at Motherwell, Ontario, one of twelve children, all of whom lived to see the fiftieth anniversary of their parents' marriage. The family was of Scotch Presbyterian stock and the children had in early life the priceless advantage of a strict regimen. His teachers were all men and gave him excellent preparation for his work at the University of Toronto, which, however, was somewhat delayed by eye trouble. After his graduation in 1897 his interest in Psychology led him to remain for a year of graduate study with Dr. August Kirschmann and the next year took him to Leipzig for work in Wundt's laboratory. From Leipzig he returned to America to accept a fellowship in the University of Wisconsin. This he held for two years, shifting in the fall of 1901 to Cornell where he received his doctorate the next year under Dr. Titchener. The year following was spent as an instructor at Cornell, the next as a research assistant under the Carnegie Foundation and the next two (1904-06) in an instructorship in Johns Hopkins. From Baltimore he was called to an assistant professorship in the University of Illinois which he held until February, 1910, when he began work at Clark. In February, 1913, he was advanced at Clark to the full professorship in which he continued until his death.

His scientific contributions cover a considerable range of subjects within the general field of experimental psychology and were characterized by precision and finish. They were numerous enough to establish amply his standing as a man of science—too numerous for detailed notice here—but fewer than they would have been had he been a less devoted teacher and put less thought and energy into the researches of his students. A good portion of his time went also into the public service of his science as an editor and reviewer. His regular connection with the JOURNAL began with the January issue of 1911 when he assumed charge as managing editor. Beside this editorial work on the AMERICAN JOURNAL he was also a coöperating editor on the *Psychological Bulletin*, the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, and the *Journal of Applied Psychology*. He was also, with Dr. Pillsbury, the editor and business manager of the volume of studies commemorative of the twenty-five years of service of Dr. Titchener at Cornell. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the Southern Society of Philosophy and Psychology and of the American Psychological Association, to the presidency of which he was elected for the year 1918.

In the spring of 1918 the impulse to have some active part in the world struggle, in which Canada had been long engaged and into which the United States had lately entered, which had always been strong, became overmastering and he asked and obtained a temporary release from his university duties in order to serve with the National Research Council in Washington. To this was soon added engrossing reconstructive work at the Walter Reed Hospital in that city. This double service, carried on with total self-disregard and under unfavorable climatic conditions, undoubtedly led to the aggravation of a latent disease which sent him in November to the hospital for treatment and, after a gallant fight for recovery, to his death.

To his colleagues, as to his students and personal acquaintances, a note which should speak of Baird merely as a psychologist would seem incomprehensibly defective. To them his staunch Scottish character, his integrity, his openness and cheery optimism, his friendliness, his interest in sport, his unflinching mastery of pain, his death in patriotic service make a picture in which the scientist shines with the added glory of the man.
